

# SAIN T PAUL

## The Most Livable City in America

Mayor Chris Coleman



### Our Sense of Place

Life in Saint Paul flows deep with tradition, wide with talent and diversity, and strong with economic and cultural vitality. Our character is in our people. You can feel it in the firmness of our handshake and the warmth of our welcome. The sights, sounds and aromas are the breath of our unique, charming old neighborhoods.

Saint Paul, the head of navigation of the great Mississippi River, is a City of neighborhoods. Like a network of urban villages, our neighborhoods are strong and stable, each with its own fascinating texture of historic interest, cultural landmarks, ethnic heritage and time-honored traditions. This is why people lucky enough to live here feel a remarkable sense of belonging, a sense of place.

Our commitment to not only preserving, but growing this sense of the urban village is exemplified by our continuing development of Downtown. Now one of our most desirable neighborhoods, the City's core is thriving, not just as a place to work, but as a place to live, learn and spend leisure time. We have reclaimed our riverfront, which now pulses with the energy of both concerts and commerce.

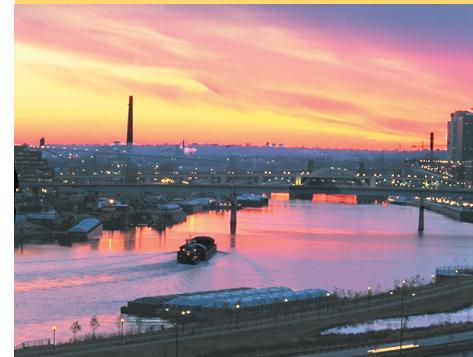
Saint Paul is a thriving commercial center in our own right—home to *Fortune 500* company headquarters, large regional enterprises and countless small businesses and professional firms. We are playing an ever-more-vital role in both powering and piloting the fortunes of the dynamic Minneapolis/Saint Paul Metro region. As large-scale, visionary developments like the Central Corridor (at last linking the east metro with the metro core in a way that will integrate, rather than alienate, neighborhood interests) continue to unfold, we are committed to seeing that role continue to broaden.

Just as clearly as we are the seat of government for Minnesota, Saint Paul is undoubtedly the state's historical and cultural heart. This is not just a source of great pride for those of us who live here, but it also gives Saint Paul the unique stature of belonging to every resident of the state. We recognize and welcome that responsibility.

### Our Vision for the Future

As we stake out goals and priorities for our City's future, we start with an inherent appreciation of and love for our home. We will also have the foresight and courage to reach for new heights as we hold on to that unique sense of place. We will be guided by our core values of **cooperation, responsibility and respect**. We will be determined that no child born into disadvantage and prejudice be bound to stay there. By **mending disparities, by opening doors**, we will make sure that even our most vulnerable residents dare to hope and dream.

Our City will be a national leader for quality education, safe streets, thriving local commerce, healthy living, state-of-the-art infrastructure and eclectic character. These are the goals of Mayor Chris Coleman's administration. These are assets that will make **Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America**.





## GOAL 1

### Ready for School, Ready for Life

Education is core to the quality of life in our great City. Saint Paul will strive to ensure that learning opportunities are quality-driven and accessible for all. We will work to leverage City and community resources, building on the strengths of our people. Saint Paul will work in concert with its many education resources: our world-class public, private and charter schools; premier colleges and universities; libraries; and a network of informal learning institutions. Education will be at the forefront of closing the gap between the “haves” and “have-nots.”

#### STRATEGIES:

- Start early: expand **early childhood education** and literacy programs so that all children enter school ready to learn.
- Beyond the schoolyard and the school day: convene and connect formal and informal learning opportunities during the **Second Shift**, Out-of-School time.
- Expect that all Saint Paul kids will participate in higher-education: **better inform and prepare high school students** for post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Lifelong learning: increase **workforce training** and preparedness to support our growing and diverse residents and businesses.

## GOAL 2

### Safe Streets and Safe Homes

A sense of security on our sidewalks and in our homes is essential to our City’s quality of life. This feeling of safety comes from a strong sense of community and confidence in our exceptional public safety system. Our residents know that safety comes first in Saint Paul and have come to expect that our world-class police and fire departments will deliver the best possible emergency services quickly and equitably.

#### STRATEGIES:

- Start with Prevention:
  - **Engage and empower youth** by increasing quality recreational, educational and youth organizing opportunities available for our diverse future leaders.
  - **Address areas of disinvestment** by taking on problem properties and revitalizing commercial corridors.
  - **Create community partnerships** that encourage and support healthy and safe neighborhoods.
- Strategic Enforcement and Prosecution:
  - **Focus on nuisance and quality of life crimes** such as loitering, noise and curfew violations.
  - Target domestic violence, drug activity and repeat criminal offenders.
  - Engage and include stakeholders through **community policing and prosecution**.



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## GOAL 3

### Expanding Economic Opportunity

Saint Paul is at the heart of state and regional government, health care industries, bio-science/medical development and the arts community. We will build our economic future on the foundation of the City's strengths—a well-educated citizenry, safe neighborhoods, a diverse and affordable housing mix, sound infrastructure, and local businesses rich with growth potential.

Saint Paul will invest in supporting our homegrown entrepreneurs and our small and mid-sized businesses within the fabric of our community. We will also work to continue and expand the presence of large businesses who embrace the tradition of engaged corporate citizenry.

While aggressively pursuing more commerce in our community, we will be strong stewards of our historic structures, which are continual reminders of our City's foundation. We will continue with inclusive, responsible community planning efforts to ensure our development work is reflective of the community's vision.

#### STRATEGIES:

- Revitalize neighborhood **commercial corridors**, specifically in areas of disinvestment.
- Invest in the development of the **Central Corridor**, being sure to engage the community and embrace the diverse cultures that live and conduct business on the corridor.
- Enhance Saint Paul's vibrant **downtown and riverfront** entertainment, cultural and business district by investing in key development projects.
- Invest in the development of quality **affordable housing**.
- Target economic development dollars to maximize **job creation and retention**.



## GOAL 4

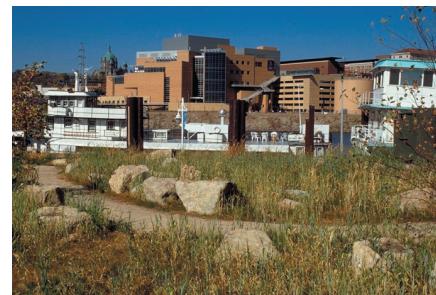
### Communities = Healthy Living

Saint Paul will be a leader in sustainable urban living by "acting locally" to help reverse the negative effects of global warming. Environmental stewardship must start at home.

We will implement the vision of the National Great River Park by focusing development on a more natural, more urban and more connected Saint Paul. Our healthy community will encourage healthy lifestyles. The health and welfare of our community and our residents will help attract and retain quality businesses and a quality workforce.

#### STRATEGIES:

- Take proactive steps to **protect our City's air, water and urban landscape** by focusing on carbon dioxide reduction, energy efficiency and conservation, clean energy supply, alternative transportation, water quality, recycling, waste reduction, green space and reforestation.
- Improve and **expand Saint Paul's system of parks, green spaces, bikeways and trails**, by connecting the entire City, including the Mississippi River and existing recreation locations and ecological spaces.
- Encourage residents of all ages and cultures to **increase their physical activity**.
- **Improve our pedestrian streetscapes** both in our neighborhoods and Downtown.



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**cooperation, responsibility and respect.**



GOAL  
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## Quality Infrastructure

Saint Paul's mission to become the most livable City in America is grounded in our assets and infrastructure. The principles of **sound infrastructure, quality public amenities and proactive environmental stewardship** will guide our work.

### STRATEGIES:

- Promote strategic **capital investment** that maintains and improves our infrastructure.
- Utilize new approaches and **best practices** to develop policies and standards to manage assets, infrastructure and technology and to exercise **environmental stewardship**.
- Provide technology infrastructure – including a **robust broadband infrastructure with citywide wireless** capacity and a **city website** connecting residents and visitors to all of Saint Paul's assets.
- Support our quality infrastructure and quality of life by investing in **infrastructure aesthetics**, including landscaping, flowers and decorative lighting.



GOAL  
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## The Soul of Saint Paul

The soul of Saint Paul can be experienced within our neighborhoods and among our diverse people. We will enhance the spirit of our City to fuel our economic vitality. We will capitalize on Saint Paul's national leadership in civic health by strengthening our neighborhood engagement. We will work to expand access to exciting parks, cultural institutions, vibrant music and artistic brilliance. We'll use technology to connect residents and visitors to the great character of our City.

### STRATEGIES:

- Make downtown a **regional music, culture and creative arts center** for all generations by creating and supporting arts and culture venues.
- Implement a **public art policy for Saint Paul** that ensures art is integrated into our public and private infrastructure.
- Establish and build on **Saint Paul as the home of authentic and fun sporting opportunities**, including high school sports tournaments, amateur sports, and Minnesota's premier major and minor league teams.
- Market Saint Paul's **creative voices, ethnic diversity and neighborhood-based character** as keys to our identity.



This vision—and the goals and strategies for realizing it—will soon become our legacy as residents and public servants of this great City. By starting now, by working hand in hand and by focusing on our common values, we will turn these shared hopes and plans into *expectations*. Only by expecting the best of our people, organizations and government, will we succeed in claiming Saint Paul's well-deserved status as the **Most Livable City in America**.

